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**From:** Tim Hugo <tim.hugo@capnet.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 09, 2019 10:16 PM  
**To:** Corbin Kenneth C; Lemons Terry L  
**Cc:** Fox Diane - ATSC  
**Subject:** FFA: Letter to Commissioner Rettig Regarding the Free File Program  
**Attachments:** May 9, 2019 FFA Letter to Commissioner Rettig.pdf

Ken and Terry,

Attached is a letter to Commissioner Rettig that FFA respectfully requests be forwarded to him regarding the Free File Program.

Thank you for forwarding this letter to the Commissioner and his office.

Regards,

Tim Hugo  
Executive Director  
Free File Alliance

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***TimHugo***

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**Transmitted Via Email**

May 9, 2019

The Honorable Charles P. Rettig  
Commissioner  
Internal Revenue Service  
1111 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20224

Dear Commissioner Rettig:

On behalf of Free File, Inc., I am writing to you today to express my strong agreement with the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Ways and Means Committee, as well as the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Oversight, that the IRS conduct a review of the IRS Free File Program and broaden its review to examine the marketing of the Program, its oversight, and additional opportunities to increase participation in the Program.

Free File, Inc., will be pleased to provide you and your staff with information and data that provides an accurate assessment of the Program, and reflects its benefits to taxpayers year over year. As IRS's partner in the Free File Program for the past 17 years, Free File, Inc., and its members are proud of the fact that we have helped prepare and electronically file more than 55 million free federal income tax returns since the Program's inception, saving those low and middle-income taxpayers who are eligible under the Program an estimated \$1.6 billion in tax preparation and filing fees. In addition, Free File members have provided millions of free state tax returns, as well.

While we should and must explore opportunities for increasing participation in the Free File Program, it must be noted that over the last two tax seasons (2018-19) the Program usage has grown by 11 percent.

Unfortunately, many of the recent allegations about Free File member companies are inaccurate, baseless or taken out of context to portray the Program and Free File members in the worst possible light. Free File, Inc., cannot answer for each member company, but we can answer for the Alliance and the Program. We look forward to a sober, probative examination of the Program and how it might be improved and strengthened for the future.

Sincerely,

Tim Hugo  
Executive Director, Free File, Inc.

cc: The Honorable Richard E. Neal, Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means  
The Honorable Kevin Brady, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways and Means  
The Honorable John Lewis, Chairman, Subcommittee on Oversight  
The Honorable Mike Kelly, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Oversight  
Stephen M. Ryan, General Counsel, Free File

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